

*3*  
6. (Amended) The [surface protection system] mat of claim  
2, wherein said durable material is selected from the group consisting  
essentially of polypropylene, nylon, plastic, rubber and synthetic material.

*4*  
7. (Amended) The [surface protection system] mat of claim  
[4] 17, wherein said moisture absorbance means is made of at least one layer  
of absorbent material.

*5*  
8. (Amended) The [surface protection system] mat of claim 8  
wherein said absorbent material is selected from the group consisting  
essentially of wood pulp, fibers, polymers, and combinations thereof.

Please cancel claim 9.

*610*  
2. (Amended) The [surface protection system] mat of claim  
[4] 17, wherein said [barrier means] base unit includes skid-resistant means for  
the prevention of any movement of said surface protection system.

Please cancel claim 11.

*712*  
3. (Amended) The [surface protection system] mat of claim  
[4] 17, wherein said surface protection system is a single, disposable sealed  
system.

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13. (Amended) The [surface protection system] ~~mat~~ of claim [4] 17, wherein said surface protection system is disposable and recyclable.

Please cancel claims 14 and 15.

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816. (Amended) A method of protecting a ~~restroom~~ surface from spillage of [liquids] ~~urine~~ by placing said surface protection system of claim [4] 17 on the surface in need of protection.

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(17) (New) A urinal or commode mat for protecting a restroom surface from spillage of liquids, said mat comprising:  
a cartridge unit comprising moisture absorbing means for absorbing and retaining liquid;  
a rigid cartridge top disposed over and connected to said moisture absorbing means for collecting and draining liquid onto said moisture absorbing means;  
barrier means disposed beneath and connected to said moisture absorbing means for preventing moisture escape from said moisture absorbing means; and  
a base unit operatively connected to said cartridge unit and containing said cartridge unit.

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